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Thomas Hickathrift

**The history of
Thomas Hickathrift**

London

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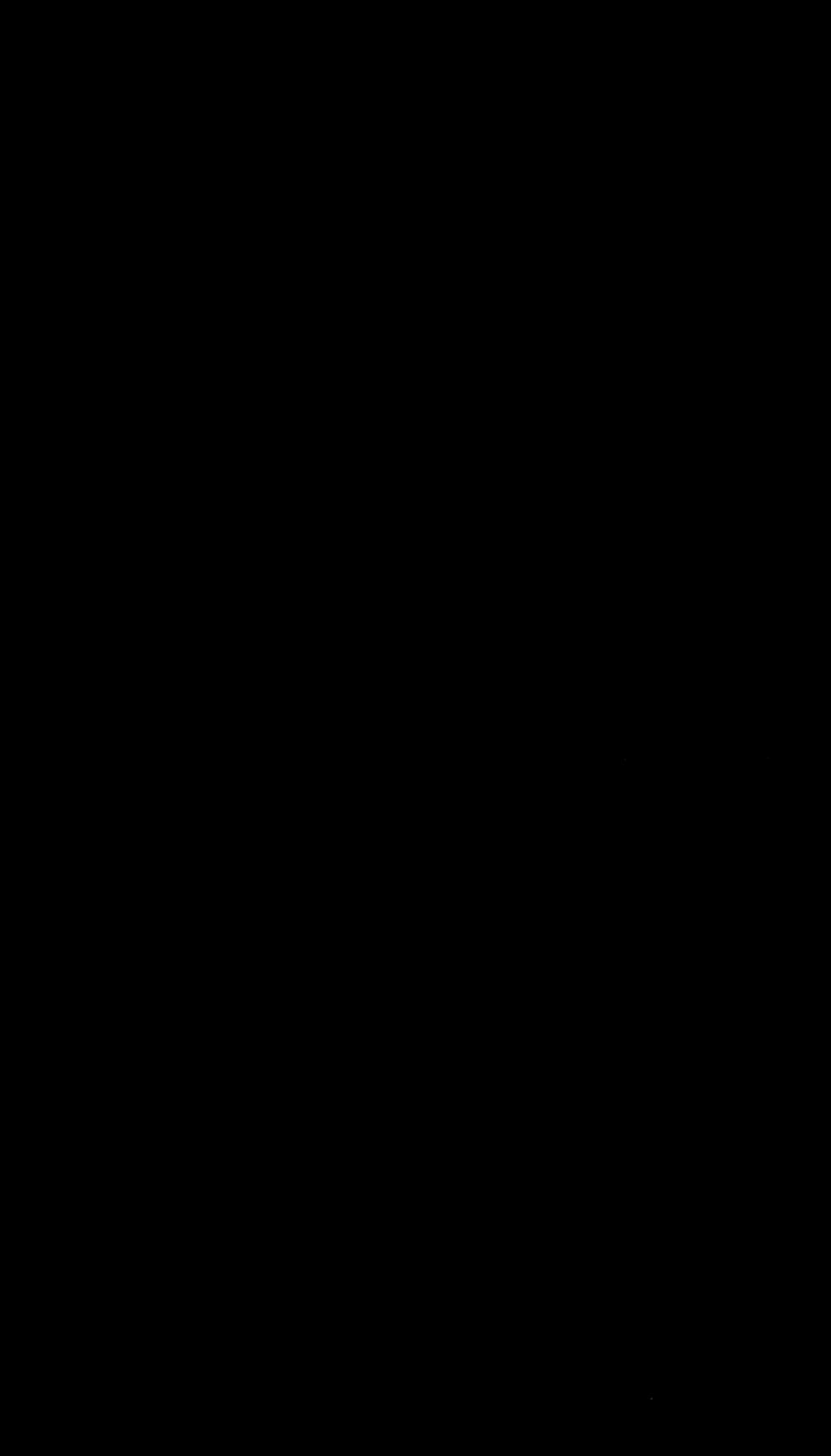
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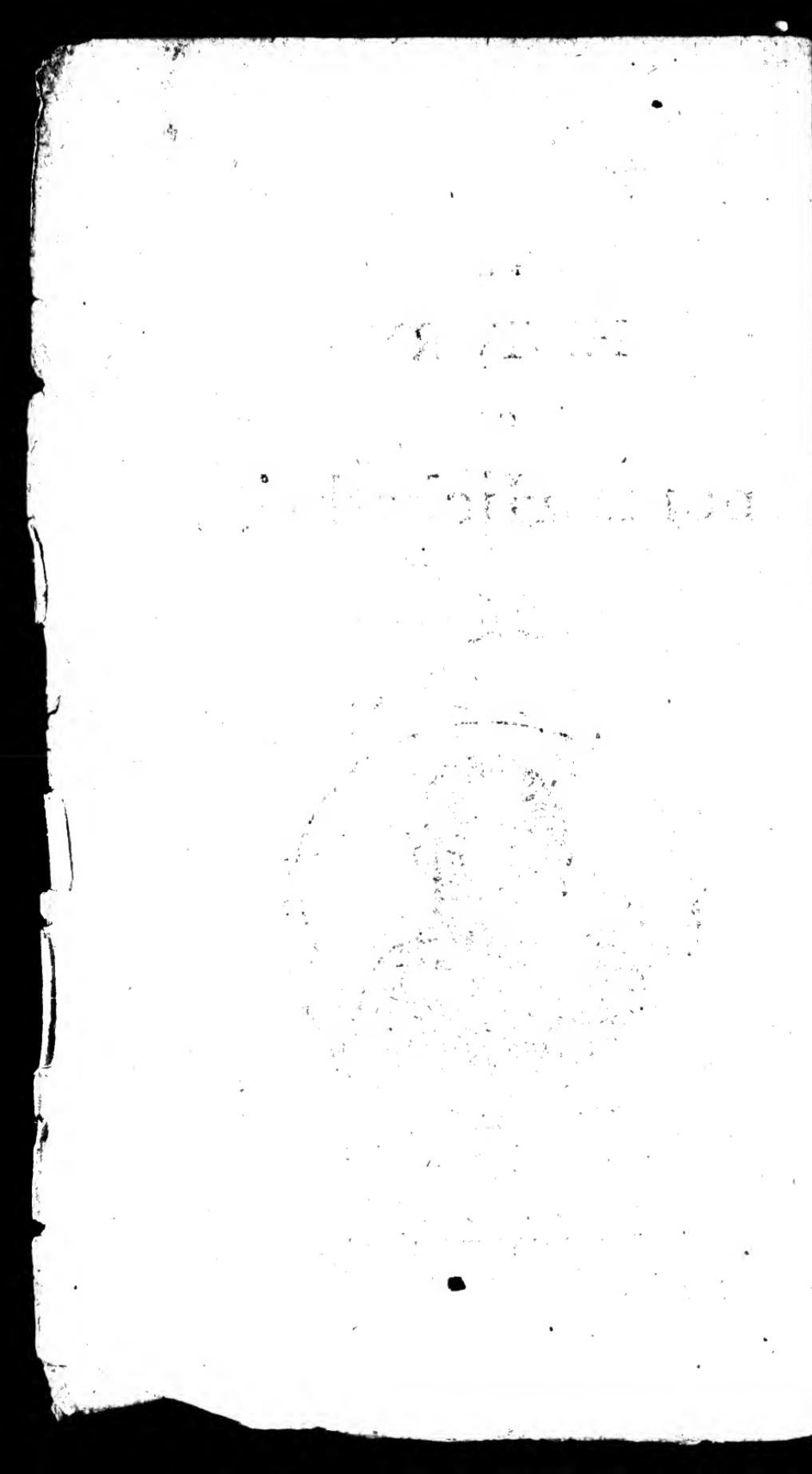
THE
HISTORY
OF
Thomas Hickathrift.

PART THE SECOND.



L O N D O N.

Printed and sold by J. EVANS and Co. 41 and 42
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THE
SECOND PART
OF THE
HISTORY
OF

Thomas Hickathrift.

CHAP. I.

Tom Hickathrift, the Tinker, and a few
others conquer ten thousand Rebels.

IN and about the Isle of Ely many
disaffected persons, to the number of
ten thousand or upwaids, drew themselves
together in a body, pretending to contend
for their rights and privileges, which they
said had been greatly infringed, insomuch
that the ciyl magistrates of the county

thought themselves in great danger of their lives.

Whereupon the sheriff by night came to the house of Mr. Thomas Hickathrift, as a secure place of refuge in so imminent a time of danger; where he laid open to Mr. Hickathrift the unseasonableness of the complaints of these rebels, and begged his protection and assistance.

Sheriff, said Tom, what service my brother (meaning the tinker) and I can perform shall not be wanting.

This said, in the morning by break of day, with trusty clubs, they both went out, desiring the sheriff to be their guide, in conducting them to the place where the rebels were.

When they came there, Tom, the tinker,



and a few others, marched boldly up to th

head of them; and demanded the reason why they disturbed the goverment? At which they replied, that their will was their law, and by that only they would be governed.

Nay, said Tom, if it be so, these are our weapons, and by them you shall be chastised. These words were no sooner out of his mouth, but the tinker and he threw themselves both together into the crowd, where, with their clubs, they beat down all before them. Nay, remarkable it was the tinker struck a tall man upon the neck with such great force that his head flew off, and was carried ten yards from him, and struck the chief leader with such violence as levelled him to the ground.

Tom, on the other hand, pressing forward, beat down all before him, making great havock, till by an unfortunate blow, he broke his club; yet he was not in the least dismayed, for he presently seized a lusty, stout, raw-boned miller, and so made use of him for a weapon till at last they cleared the field, that not one of them durst lift up his head against them.

Shortly after Tom took some of them and exposed them to public Justice; the rest being pardoned at the request of Tom and the tinker.

CHAP. II.

Tom Hickathrift and the Tinker are sent for to Court, and of their kind Entertainment.



THE King being truly informed of the faithful services performed by

these his loving subjects Tom Hickathrift
and the tinker, he was well pleased to send
for them and the nobility.

Now after the banquet the King said,
these are my trusty and well beloved sub-
jects, men of known courage and valour.



who conquered ten thousand persons that
were met together to disturb the peace of
my realm.

According to the characters given of
Thomas Hickathrift and Henry Mouscup,
persons here present, which cannot be

matched in all the world; were it possible to have an army of 20,000 such, I durst immediately venture to act the part of great Alexander.



As a proof of my favour, kneel down

and receive the order of knighthood; Mr. Hickathrift; and as for Henry Nonsuch, I will settle upon him a reward of forty pound a year during life.

So said the King, withdrew, and Sir Thomas Hickathrift, and Henry Nonsuch the tinker, returned to their home.— But, to the great grief of Sir Thomas Hickathrift, he found his mother dead and buried.

CHAP. III.

Tom, after the Death of his Mother, goes a wooing; and of a Trick he served a Gallant who had offended him.

TOM's mother being dead, and he left alone in a spacious house, he found himself strange, therefore he began to consider with himself, that it would not be amiss to seek a wife; so, hearing of a rich and young widow in Cambridge, he goes to her and makes his addresses; and at the first coming she seemed to shew him much

favour ; but, between that and his coming again, she gave entertainment to an airy, brisk, and young spark, that happened to come in while Tom was there a second time.

He looked very wishfully at Tom, and Tom stared as fiercely at him again, so at last the young spark began to abuse him with very affrontive language, saying he was a lubberly whelp and a scoundrel.

A scoundrel ! said Tom, better sayings would become you, and if you do not instantly mend your manners, you will meet with correction.

At which the young man challenged him, so to the yard they went, the young man with his sword, and Tom with neither stick nor staff.

Said the spark, have you nothing to defend yourself ? then I shall the sooner dispatch you.

So he made a pass at Tom, but that he put by, and then wheeling round unto his backside, gave him such a nice kick in the breech, as sent the spark, like a crow, in the air whence he fell upon the ridge of a thatched house, and came down into a fish pond, where he had certainly been.

drowned if it had not been for a poor shepherd, who was walking by that road, and seeing him floating on the water, immediately dragged him out with his hook, and home he returned like a drowned rat, whilst Tom enjoyed the kind embraces of his lady.

CHAP. IV.

How Tom served two Troopers, whom the Spark had hired to beset him.

NOW the young gallant vexed himself to think how Tom had conquered him before his new mistress, so was resolved on speedy revenge, and, knowing he was not able to cope with him, he hired two lusty troopers, well mounted, to lie in ambush in a thicket, which Tom was to pass in his way home, and so, accordingly, they both attempted to set upon him.

How now, rascals! said Tom, what would you be at? Are you indeed so weary of your lives, that you so unadvisedly set upon one who is able to crush

you like a cucumber ? The two troopers laughing at him, said, they were not to be daunted at his high words.—High words ! said Tom, nay, now I will come to action, and then ran in between them, catching them in his arms, horses and men, as easy as if they had been but two baker's bawins.

In this manner he steered homewards; but, as he passed through a company of haymakers, the troopers cried, Stop him; stop him; he runs away with two of the King's troopers. But they laughed to see Tom hugging them, frequently upbraiding them for their baseness, saying, he'd make mince meat of them for crows and jackdaws.

This was a dreadful sentence for them, and the poor rogues begged he would be merciful to them, and they would discover the whole plot, and who was the person that employed them; which they accordingly did, and gained favour in the sight of Tom, who pardoned them, on promising that they would never be concerned in so villainous an action as that was for the future.

CHAP. V.

Tom going to be married, is set upon by Twenty-one Ruffians; and of the Havock be made.

IN regard to the hindrance which Tom had met with by the troopers, he delayed his visits to his lady and love till the next day, and, coming to her, he gave her a full account of what had happened.

She was much pleased at this relation, and received him with joy and satisfaction, knowing it was safe for a woman to marry with a man who was able to defend her against any assault whatever, and so brave a man as Tom was found to be.

The day of marriage being appointed, and friends and relations invited; yet secret malice, which is never satisfied but with revenge, had like to have prevented it; for having near three miles to go to church, the afore-mentioned gentleman had provided one and twenty ruffians to

destroy Tom, or to put them to a consternation.

Howbeit, it so happened in a private place; all bolted out upon Tom, and with a spear gave him a slight wound, which made his sweetheart shriek out lamentably. Tom endeavoured to pacify her, saying, Stand you still, and I will soon show you some pleasant sport.

Then catching hold of a broad sword that belonged to one of the company, he behaved so gallantly with it, that at every stroke he took off a joint. He spared their lives, but lopped off their legs and arms, that in less than a quarter of an hour there was not one in the company but had lost a limb; the grass was all stained with purple gore, and the ground was covered with legs and arms.

His lover and the rest of the company were all this while standing by and admiring his valour; crying out, O what a sight of cripples indeed has he made in a short time.

Yes, said Tom, I verily believe, that for every drop of blood I have lost, I have made the rascals pay me a limb as a just tribute,

This said, he stept to a farmer's house, and hired a servant, by giving him twenty shillings to carry the several cripples home to their respective habitations in his dung cart, and then posted to church with his love, when they were heartily merry with their friends, after this encounter.

CHAP. VI.

Tom provides a Feast for all the poor widows in the adjacent Towns; and how he served an old Woman who stole a silver cup.

NOW Tom being married, made a plentiful feast, to which he invited all the poor widows in the parish, for the sake of his mother, who had been lately buried.

The feast was carried on with the greatest solemnity, and being ended, a silver cup was missing, and being asked about it, they all denied it.

At last, all being searched, the cup was found on an old woman named Stumbelow. Then all the rest were in a rage; some were for hanging her, others for chopping the old woman in pieces for her ingratitude to such a generous benefactor.

But he entreated them all to be quiet, saying, they should not murder a poor old woman, for he would appoint a punishment for her, which was this: he bored a hole through her nose, and put a string in it, and ordered her to be stripped naked, then commanded the rest of the old women to stick a lighted candle in her backside, and lead her through all the streets and lanes in Cambridge; which comical sight caused a general laughter.

This being done, she had her cloathes again, and so was acquitted.



CHAR: VII.

Sir Thomas and his Lady are sent for up to Court, and of what happened at that Time.

NOW tidings of Tom's weddng was soon raised at court, insomuch that they had a royal invitation there, in order that the King might have a sight of his new married Lady. Accordingly they came, and were received with much joy and triumph.

Whilst they were in the midst of their mirth, news was brought to the King by the commons of Kent, that a very dreadful giant was landed in one of the islands, and had brought with him a great number of bears, and also young lions, with a dreadful dragon, upon which he always rode; which said monster, and ravenous beasts, had much frightened all the inhabitants of the said island. And moreover they said, if speedy course was not taken

to suppress them in due time, they would destroy the country.

The King hearing of this relation, was a little startied, yet he perswaded them to return home, and make the best defence they could for the present, assuring them that he would not forget them, and so they departed.

CHAP. VIII.

Tom is made Governor of East Angles, now called the Isle of Thanet, and of the wonderful Atchievements he there performed.

THE King hearing these dreadful tidings, immediately sat in council, to consider what was best to be done for the conquering this giant and wild beasts.

At length Tom Hickathrift was pitched upon, as being a stout bold subject; for which reason it was judged necessary to make him governor of that island, which place of trust he readily accepted, and accordingly he went down with his wife and family to take possession of the same, attended by an hundred and odd Knights, and gentlemen at least; they taking leave

of him, and wishing him all health and prosperity.

Many days he had not been there before it was his fortune to meet this monstrous giant, for thus it was;—Sir Thomas looking out at his own window, espied this giant mounted on a dreadful dragon, and



on his shoulder he bore a club of iron; he had but one eye which was in the middle of his forehead, and was as large as a barber's basin, and seemed like a flaming fire; the hair of his head hanging down like snakes, and his beard like rusty wire.

Lifting up his eye he saw Sir Thomas, who was viewing him from one of the

windows of the castle. The giant then begun to knit his brow, and to breathe out some threatening words to the governor, who, indeed, was a little surprised at the approach of such a monstrous and ill-favoured brute.

The monstrous giant, finding that Tom did not make much haste to get down to him ; he alighted from his dragon, and chained him to an oak tree ; then marched to the castle, setting his broad shoulders against the corner of the wall, as if he intended to overthrow the whole bulk of the building at once. Tom perceiving it, said, Is this the game you would be at ; Faith, I shall spoil your sport ; for I have a tool to pick your teeth with.

He then took the two-handed sword the King gave him ; down he went ; and flinging open the gate, he there found the giant, who by an unfortunate slip in his thrusting was fallen all along, and there lay not able to help himself.

How now ! said Tom, do you come here to take up your lodging ? this is not all to be suffered. And with that he ran his long broad sword between the giant's tawny

buttocks, and made the brute give a groan almost as loud as thunder.

Then Sir Thomas pulling out his sword again, and, at six or seven blows, he severed his head, which, when cut off, seemed like the root of a great oak; then turning to the dragon, which was all this time chained to a tree, without any farther ado, at a few blows, cut off that also.

This adventure being over, he sent for a waggon and horses, and loaded them with the heads, and then summoned all the constables of the country for a safeguard and sent them to the court, with a promise to his Majesty, that in a short time he would clear the island of all the bears, lions, &c.



CHAP. IX.

The Tinker hearing of Tom's Fame, he goes to his Partner; and of his being unfortunately slain by a Lion.

TO M's victories rang so loud, that they reached the ears of his old acquaintance the tinker, who being very desirous of honour, resolved to go down and



visit him in his goverment; and, coming there, he was kindly entertained.

After a few day's pleasure, Tom told him he must go in search of some bears and lions in the island. Then, said the tinker, I will go with you. With all my heart, said Tom, for I must own I shall be glad of your company. On this they went forward, Tom with his great sword, and the tinker with his pike staff.

After they had travelled four or five hours, it was their fortune to meet all the wild beasts together, being, in number, fourteen; six of which were bears, the other eight young lions. When these creatures had set their eyes on them, they ran furiously, as if they would have devoured them at a mouthful; but Tom and the tinker stood side by side with their backs against an oak, until the lions and bears came within their reach. Tom with his sword clave all their heads asunder, until they were all destroyed, except one young lion, who, seeing the rest of his fellow creatures dead, was making his escape; but the tinker being too venterous, ran hastily after him, and gave the lion a blow. The

beast turned upon him, and seized him with such violence by the throat, as soon ended his life.

Tom's joy was now mingled with sorrow, for though he had cleared the island of those venomous beasts, yet his grief was intolerable for the loss of his friend.

Home he returned to his Lady, where, in tokens of joy for the success he'd had in his dangerous enterprizes, he made a very noble and splendid feast, to which he invited all his friends and acquaintances, and then made them the following promises—

My friends, while I have strength to stand,
Most manfully I will pursue
All dangers, till I clear the land
Of lions, bears and tygers too.